

FOREIGN SHIPPING TO NORTH VIETNAM IN 1967

There were changes in the support provided North Vietnam by sea in 1967, particularly in the number of Soviet and Chinese ships involved and in total tonnages -- imports were up by nearly 45 per cent while exports were halved.

Soviet ship arrivals rose sharply -- to 181, from the 122 recorded for 1966; the Soviets did, however, employ more small ships. East European totals dropped; there were 29 arrivals, 15 fewer than in 1966. One Cuban ship arrived each year. Chinese Communist port calls totaled 97 -- down 41 from the previous 12 months (there have been indications that North Vietnamese ships have been engaged in trade with China, but no specific information is available). Seventy-eight Free World ships arrived in 1967 -- four more than in 1966; 67 were under British flag (all owned by Hong Kong-based companies under Chinese Communist control), five were Cypriot, three Maltese, two Italian, and one Lebanese.

Over-all ship arrivals during 1967 totaled 386, a slight increase from the 379 in 1966. About 125 of these originated in East European ports and carried mostly general cargo; the remainder came from the Far East and carried the bulk of POL and foodstuff imports.

The total cargo imported rose from ^{902,000} ~~932,000~~ metric tons to ^{1,349,481} ~~1,349,481~~ metric tons, with grain and other foodstuffs accounting for most of the increase and POL and general cargo the balance.

The type of dry cargo delivered by the Communist countries during 1967 did not change significantly. The USSR continued to ship economic-aid goods as well as military support material -- such as trucks, heavy construction equipment, rolled steel products, bridge-building material, drugs, and medical equipment. As in past years, no shipments of arms and ammunition were detected.

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^{140,000} Soviet POL shipments to North Vietnam totaled ~~188,429~~ metric tons, about 10,000 less than in 1966. Thirty-nine tankers accounted for the bulk of the deliveries, and all but four came Vladivostok. The only non-Soviet tanker involved was a British-flag vessel out of Hong Kong which brought about 50,000 metric tons of the total petroleum imported.

Export cargo was reduced by 50 per cent from the 1966 total of ~~1,168,000~~ metric tons. Cement, coal, and pig iron bore the brunt of the cutbacks; miscellaneous cargo remained about the same -- 84,200 metric tons for 1967.

In August, two Soviet merchant ships were sighted for the first time in the Gulf of Tonkin with Soviet ensigns painted on their hatches and freeboards; this has become common practice. The USSR probably added the identification markings because of alleged air attacks on its merchantmen while in port. The average Soviet ship cargo in 1967 was ~~3,690~~ metric tons -- a significant decrease from the 1966 average of ~~4,410~~ and in prior years of ~~4,870~~. The steady decline is apparently a result of the silting at Haiphong. Congestion of the port reached its peak from June through August, thereby extending turnaround time for each ship. To expedite dock-side unloading and reduce the time in port, numerous small barges and lighters have been employed to transfer cargo from ships at anchor.

The Vietnamese have apparently had little trouble in handling the rising imports, and unless there is a major change in their cargo-handling capability, the level will presumably be maintained.

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NORTH VIETNAM
FOREIGN-FLAG SHIP ARRIVALS
JANUARY - DECEMBER 1967 AND 1966

FLAG	JANUARY-DECEMBER 1967												TOTAL	PERCENT ^{a/}	TOTAL	PERCENT ^{a/}
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	ARRIVALS 1967		ARRIVALS 1966	
TOTAL	37	42	42	37	40	34	22	23	25	26	26	32	386	100.0	379	100.0
COMMUNIST COUNTRIES	31	37	39	32	31	23	17	17	18	20	21	22	308	79.8	305	80.5
USSR	16	24	23	18	18	8	10	12	8	13	15	16	181	46.9	122	32.2
EASTERN EUROPE	4	3	4	4	2	4	2	1	2	1	1	1	29	7.5	44	11.6
ALBANIA	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.3	2	0.5
BULGARIA	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1.0	9	2.4
POLAND	2	2	3	4	2	3	2	1	2	1	1	1	24	6.2	33	8.7
COMMUNIST CHINA	11	10	12	10	10	11	5	4	8	6	5	5	97	25.1	138	36.4
CUBA	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.3	1	0.3
FREE WORLD	6	5	3	5	9	11	5	6	7	6	5	10	78	20.2	74	19.5
CYPRUS	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	5	1.3	12	3.2
GREECE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.	7	1.8
ITALY	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0.5	1	0.3
LEBANON	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.3	0	0.
MALTA	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0.8	4	1.1
UNITED KINGDOM	6	3	3	4	7	9	5	4	6	6	5	9	67	17.4	50	13.2

a. Because of rounding, components may not add to the totals shown.

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SUPPLEMENT

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